

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: UK REACTION TO SECRETARY'S KANSAS CITY
SPEECH AND WORK OF OECD MINISTERIAL

REF: A. STATE 11780 (NOTAL), B. OECD PARIS 12719
(NOTAL), C. OECD PARIS 12685 (NOTAL)

1. MAY 21 WE HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION
WITH SIR DONALD MAITLAND (DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY,
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE) ON SECRETARY'S MAY 13
SPEECH AND WORK OF OECD MINISTERIAL. MAITLAND SAID
BRITISH GREATLY INTERESTED BY SPEECH, PARTICULARLY
SECTIONS ON ENERGY, BUT WOULD PREFER TO DEFER FURTHER
COMMENT UNTIL ANSWERS TO SIX QUESTIONS (REF A) RAISED
BY UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ARE CLEARER. MAITLAND SAID
INITIAL IMPRESSION IN LONDON WAS THAT SECRETARY WAS
SEEKING TO DIVORCE COMMODITY AND ENERGY PROBLEMS, BUT
SUBSEQUENT SOUNDINGS IN /WASHINGTON HAVE LED BRITISH TO
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DOUBT THAT THIS WAS THE US INTENTION.

2. MAITLAND SAID HE THOUGHT MOST USEFUL PLACE FOR FURTHER WORK ON COMMODITIES IN NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD BE AMONG PERMANENT DELEGATIONS AT OECD IN PREPARATION FOR MINISTERIAL. HE SAID THE UK HAS SEVERAL CRITICISMS OF VAN LENNEP'S DRAFTS (REF B AND C), ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PARTLY BASED ON BRITISH SUGGESTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UK SEES NO REASON TO LIST SPECIFIC ISSUES IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH THE LDCS, (REF C), PARTICULARLY SINCE THESE POINTS HAVE NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT BY THE 77. THE UK BELIEVES THAT THE FACT THAT THE OECD IS MAKING A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF ITS RECOGNITION OF SOME PROBLEMS OF THE LDCS IS THE IMPORTANT FACT WHICH IS SUFFICIENT TO MAKE THE DECLARATION BOTH USEFUL AND NEWSWORTHY.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE MANDATE FOR THE PROPOSED HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES, MAITLAND SAID HE THOUGHT THE DRAFT WAS "THIN." THE BRITISH DELEGATION WILL SEEK TO ADD ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES OF THE BRITISH POSITION IN KINGSTON.

4. MAITLAND SAID HE THOUGHT THE MOST ESSENTIAL TASK FACING THE OECD, AND THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP IN PARTICULAR, IS THE COORDINATION OF OECD POSITIONS IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. FOR INSTANCE, THE SPECIFIC ISSUES MENTIONED IN THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH THE LDCS MIGHT BE FLOATED BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS AT THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AFTER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AMONG OECD MEMBERS IN PARIS. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE. MAITLAND SAID, TO TIP THE OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES' HAND TOO SOON

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